

Enactment of disaster management law for natural calamities

516. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are enacting a disaster management law with a regulatory body to deal effectively with calamities such as Tsunamis, earthquakes, floods, famine, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present position thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and b) Yes Sir, The Disaster Management Act, 2005 has been enacted on 23rd December, 2005. It *inter-alia* provides for the setting up of a National Disaster management Authority with the responsibility for laying down the policies, plans and guidelines for disaster management for ensuring timely and effective response to disasters. For the purpose of the Act, "disaster" means a catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence in any area, arising from natural or man made causes, or by accident or negligence which results in substantial loss of life or human suffering or damage to, and destruction of, property, or damage to, and degradation of, environment, and is of such a nature or magnitude as to be beyond the coping capacity of the community of the affected area. The National Disaster Management Authority has been constituted with Prime Minister as the Chairperson and eight other Members nominated by the Chairperson. One of the Members has been designated as the Vice-Chairperson.

(c) Does not arise.

Status of cloud seeding technology

517. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of cloud seeding technology in our country;

(b) Whether this project has been launched by Andhra Pradesh Government jointly with Karnataka and Maharashtra and the Centre;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the status of its implementation in the drought-prone State of Orissa to offset the adverse impact of the dry spell in this region?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Cloud seeding experiments in Research and Development mode conducted by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune during the summer monsoon seasons revealed that moderate convergence at the cloud-base is essential for the cloud growth and development of precipitation. Another prerequisite is to have vertical cloud thickness of 1 km with liquid water content of minimum 0.5 gm/m-3. Although, the warm cloud modification is still largely at the 'research stage', some States such as Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra etc., have conducted cloud seeding experiments. In general, the positive effects were observed mainly when natural rain was in progress.

(b) No, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh did not launch any project jointly with Karnataka and Maharashtra and the Centre but they have conducted cloud seeding operations independently.

(c) Doesn't arise.

(d) Cloud seeding technology has not yet been implemented in the State of Orissa.

Pending scheme for Chhattisgarh

†518. **SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:**
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of schemes of Chhattisgarh State lying pending with Centre; and

(b) what is the time schedule for their clearance?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) A project entitled "Village Electrification by setting up Bio-diesel based D.G. sets in 50 remote unelectrified villages in Bodla Block, District Kabirdham of Chhattisgarh State" submitted by Chhattisgarh

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.